

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A drip tray sanitizing system, comprising:

a pump having an inlet port and an outlet port, wherein the inlet port is in communication with a sanitizing fluid source; and

a spray manifold disposed in a drip tray of a product dispenser, the spray manifold having an inlet port in communication with the outlet ports of the pump and multiple exit ports, wherein, when energized, the pump delivers a sanitizing fluid through the outlet ports of the spray manifold and into the drip tray for cleansing or sanitizing purposes.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a controller in electrical communication with the pump, wherein the controller controls the activation of the pump, thereby controlling the delivery of the sanitizing fluid through the spray manifold and into the drip tray.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a valve including an inlet port and an outlet port, wherein the inlet port is communication with a diluent source, and the outlet port is in fluid communication with the spray manifold, wherein when energized, the valve delivers a diluent to the spray manifold for delivery to the drip tray for mixing with the sanitizing fluid.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 3, further comprising:

a controller in electrical communication with the pump and the valve, wherein the controller controls the activation of the pump and the valve, thereby controlling the delivery of the sanitizing fluid and the diluent through the spray manifold and into the drip tray.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 4, wherein only the valve is energized to provide a rinsing function.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 3, further comprising:

a mixing union coupled at a first inlet to the outlet of the pump, at a second inlet to the outlet of the valve, and at an outlet to the inlet port of the spray manifold, whereby the diluent and the sanitizing fluid merge before entry into the spray manifold to aid in mixing.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 1, wherein the sanitizing fluid source is a container filled with a sanitizing fluid.

Claim 8 (original): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 7, wherein the container is disposable.

Claim 9 (original): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 7, wherein the container is refillable.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 7, wherein the container is coupled to the drip tray sanitizing system with a quick disconnect connector to ease container change out.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a pump switch in electrical communication with the controller and the pump, wherein the pump is energized when the pump switch is depressed, thereby delivering sanitizing fluid to drip tray.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system in claim 3, further comprising:

a valve switch in electrical communication with the controller and the valve, wherein the valve is energized when the valve switch is depressed, thereby delivering diluent to the drip tray.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 4, wherein the controller energizes only the valve to rinse the drip tray.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The drip tray sanitizing system according to claim 2, wherein the controller energizes only the pump to move sanitizing fluid into the drip tray.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A product dispenser, comprising:

a housing, wherein the housing includes a controller;

a drip tray disposed on the housing; and

a drip tray sanitizing system, wherein a spray manifold, disposed in the drip tray, is coupled to a pump in communication with a sanitizing fluid source to deliver a sanitizing fluid to the drip tray for cleansing or sanitizing purposes when the sanitizing system is energized.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The product dispenser according to claim 15, further comprising:

a controller in electrical communication with the pump, wherein the controller controls the activation of the pump, thereby controlling the delivery of the sanitizing fluid through the spray manifold and into the drip tray.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The product dispenser according to claim 15, further comprising:

a valve including an inlet port and an outlet port, wherein the inlet port is communication with a diluent source, and the outlet port is in fluid communication with the spray manifold, wherein when energized, the valve delivers a diluent to the spray manifold for delivery to the drip tray for mixing with the sanitizing fluid and cleansing purposes.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The product dispenser according to claim 17, further comprising:

a controller in communication with the valve and the pump, wherein the controller energizes the valve and the pump to deliver the mixture of the sanitizing fluid and the diluent to the drip tray.

Claim 19 (original): The beverage dispenser according to claim 15, wherein the drip tray sanitizing system is internal to the beverage dispenser.

Claim 20 (original): The beverage dispenser according to claim 15, wherein the drip tray sanitizing system is a retrofit into existing product dispenser.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The product dispenser according to claim 17, wherein the valve and the pump of the drip tray sanitizing system are remotely located from the product dispenser.

Claim 22 (original): The product dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the controller energizes only the valve to provide a drip tray rinse function.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The product dispenser according to claim 16, wherein the controller energizes only the pump to move sanitizing fluid to the drip tray.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The product dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the controller initiates drip tray sanitizing cleansing routines at predetermined intervals.

Claims 25-36 (canceled).